

Revising your Essay

Narrative

First Highlighter Color-Yellow

- Find and highlight:
 - The Exposition
 - Introducing Characters, Conflict and Setting

Second Highlighter Color-Green

- Find and highlight:
 - The Rising Action
 - Everything that makes winning harder for your main character

Third Highlight Color-Orange

- Find and highlight:
 - The climax
 - Where is the conflict at its hardest point?
 - Where are you afraid the main character is going to fail?

Fourth Highlighter Color-Blue

- Find and Highlight
 - The Falling Action
 - The solution to the conflict: Good or Bad

Fifth Highlighter Color-Pink

- Find and Highlight
 - The Resolution
 - Where are all the loose ends are tied up
 - All plots and subplots are taken care of

Sentences

- Each should be complete.
- Sentences should vary:
 - Compound: two independent clause joined by a conjunction
 - Complex: an independent and a dependent clause joined by a conjunction
- Check for fragments or incompletes. If you don't think you can catch them in your own writing, trade with a friend.
 - If it does not express a complete thought, it is not a complete sentence.
- Check for run-ons and comma splices. If you don't think you can catch them in your own writing, trade with a friend.

Transitions

- Use transition words to improve the flow of your story.
 - Transition words in creative writing help to show the order of events, the movement of time, and keep the story flowing.

First person

- Your story should be in first person.
- It should be written from the point of view of a character in the scene.
- Try to copy their voice.

Grammar

- Check spelling of Character names
- Make sure you are using the correct words
 - Their, there, they're
 - Your, you're
 - Its, it's
 - Which, witch
- Complete sentences please!
 - No fragments, run-ons or comma splices.

Five senses

- Throughout your story engage the five senses. Use the sensory experiences you brainstormed on the day you received the prompt for this essay.
 - Smell
 - Sight
 - Sound
 - Touch
 - Taste

Character Thoughts

- Be sure to write out how the character feels or what they are thinking.
 - Scared
 - Nervous
 - Happy
 - Uncertain
 - Their feelings and thoughts will change as their situation changes.

Actions

- One way to add tension is to stretch out an action like we did with the pre-writing activity.
 - I ran away from Virgil as fast as I could.
 - My lungs hurt as my feet slapped the pavement. I urged my legs to move faster, pumping my arms furiously. Every time I glanced over my shoulder, Virgil didn't look any farther away, like some horror movie monster.

With a partner

- Trade stories with a partner
- Check for inconsistencies
- Mark any place you are confused
- When you get your story back, you know where you need to improve your writing

Title

- Come up with an original title for your story.
 - NOT *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes*
- Centered
- Same font and size as your paragraph
- No spaces between title and essay

Dialogue How-to

- When a person speaks, put it in quotation marks.
- Provide a speech tag to identify who is speaking.
- New speaker, new line

Dialogue How-to Example

"That's not fair," I said to Sarah.

Sarah said, "Deal with it. That's just how it is."

"And you think," Lemry cut in, "that you don't have the power to change it?"

"She's right," I said. "And if anyone is strong enough to make the change, it's you."